

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending. By this Amendment Claims 1, 4, 14 and 16 are amended to correct informalities.

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that Claims 2-19 are allowed.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the September 20<sup>th</sup> personal interview. The substance of the discussions held are incorporated into the amendments and following remarks and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,609,092 to Ghitza et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

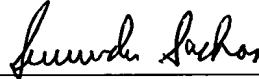
As discussed during the personal interview, Ghitza et al. does not disclose subjecting a plurality of psychoacoustic parameters and a subjective value to a multiple regression analysis. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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